

early age, and by convincing them of your loving companionship in the future. Under no other conditions should you for one day allow a child to attend a school where sex education is **not** taught with reverence for God. Not one parent in a thousand realizes the **moral dangers** surrounding small children who go to school. Many remember their own precocious education on forbidden topics, yet seem to imagine their children will be immune from such experiences.

Do not imagine that innocence necessitates ignorance. Your child will be far more innocent minded, if you give them sex instruction at home, than if you leave them to **ungoverned imagination** and **unenlightened observation**.

Deep in each human entity the sex impulse is planted, and will assert itself sooner or later. Ignorance and curiosity lead often to precocious development of the impulse. By proper care on your part, your child's mind may be kept normal, innocent, and wholesome.

A UK school had a week of lessons about lesbian, gay, bisexual & transgender history. Part of this was a special adaptation of Shakespeare's **Romeo & Juliet** retitled **Romeo & Julian** as well as fairytales & stories changed to show men falling in love with men. **This isn't sex education, its cultural fascism**. Rather than filling the heads of impressionable boys & girls with fatuous drivel about gays, schools should be ashamed of the fact that they are sending children out into the world barely able to read, write & add properly. Muslim parents **MUST** explain our moral standards to schools & be prepared to take steps to protect our children's morals & values from a growing agenda to impose liberal values upon them.

There is wisdom in postponing sexual behaviour until marriage & to focus on all of the positive aspects that a healthy sexual relationship contributes to that union. Rules **without explanation** only stimulate a young person's curiosity & interest in risky behaviour that is glorified by the media & often practiced by one's peers. Also, when instilled with a strong sense of self-esteem & identity, young people are better equipped to deal with the pressures they face particularly during adolescence when some of their **misguided friends** are experimenting sexually.

Popular culture's message of limitless gratification has got ignorant girls so worked up over sex that **Casanova himself would not be able to satisfy them**. Yet, **premarital sex is, retrospectively, rather**

empty & dreary. The pursuit of sensuous gratification is a powerful factor which disintegrates character, obscure high ideals, & bring disorder & abnormality into overt manifestation. What has gone awry in our culture's **obsessive preoccupation** with sex? Since the sixties women have been led to believe that they could be as sexually promiscuous & licentious as any depraved man & not suffer emotional consequences. But as any woman will tell you, emotional conflicts usually develop after she has **illicit** sex. Humans are endowed with self control **not** seen in any other species, such that we do **not** act on every instinctual impulse because of some uncontrollable force. **Quran: 23:5 "Blessed are the believers...who restrain their carnal desires..."**

Islam recognizes the power of sexual need, and the subject is discussed in the Quran & the sayings of Prophet Muhammad (p) in a serious manner, in regard to marital & family life. Parents should familiarize themselves with this body of knowledge. Teach kids this saying: "If you were to devote sexual passion to something forbidden, it would be a sin. If you were to devote it to something lawful, God gives a reward."

What is important overall is that you understand that coming of age, **thinking about sex, experiencing sexual desires, and feeling sexual passion are all blessings from God** which **carry a heavy burden of responsibility** & are a trust from God. It is not permissible to violate that trust, to be irresponsible with these blessings, and to risk incurring God's displeasure. Islamic sex ed should be taught at home at an early age. Before giving education about anatomy & physiology, the belief in the Creator should be established. As Dostoevsky put it, "Without God, everything is possible," meaning that the lack of belief or awareness of God gives an OK for wrongdoing.

Whether you are just reaching puberty or have come of age sometime ago, you should be reminded that all of us need to be conscious of our sexuality and strive ceaselessly to remain chaste. Although common notions of adolescence encourage you to explore and to experiment with your sexuality, there is nothing within Islamic teachings (or other religions) that even remotely tolerates premarital sexual relations of any kind.

"If children learn of sex as a relation between their parents to which they owe their own existence, they learn of it in its best form and in connection with its biological purpose." — Bertrand Russell, Marriage & Morals

Marriage is my tradition: The Prophet (p)

Sex ...for children Education

Sex is an expression of love & one without the other is incomplete.

The school curriculum for "sex education" is filled with "pus". Diseases & illicit relations dominate the "education". Children are navigating this difficult terrain **on their own** or resorting to information outlets which are less than wholesome & are forbidden in Islam.

Why parents have chosen to **taboo this important subject, and why they surround it with falsehood & subterfuge, and suggest that it is unclean or vulgar, has always been a puzzle. Inconceivable harm & lifelong disaster, has befallen many a girl & many a boy through this mistaken attitude of parents to God's basic law of the universe**. But until the Creator produces life by some new process, children will never be exempt from curiosity regarding the present method, and parents may as well realize the fact & become their children's reverent instructors, instead of leaving them to be taught God's holiest truths by **vulgar chance or dreadful design** (like the current school curriculum & porn). The puritanical repression of natural desire makes vice more attractive to children. The devil must laugh his sides sore to see how **straight-laced virtue** whips her children into **his** ranks.

If contextually appropriate teachings are not available – whether at home, in the mosque or in other social settings – then the taboos about sexuality become entrenched, lead to diminished knowledge, and pleasure or even negativity about sex.

When the children among you become sex conscious...

Facts about sex should be taught to children (as the above verse suggests) in a way commensurate with their age as they grow up both by the family & the school. This should be done within the total context of Islamic ideology & Islamic teaching, so that the youth – beside getting the correct physiologic knowledge – become fully aware on the sanctity of the sexual relation in Islam and the grave sin of blemishing such sanctity whether under Islamic law, or far more important in the sight of God. **Provided the Islamic conscience is developed** there is no reason to shun sex education. It is better to give the correct teaching rather than leave this to chance and to incorrect sources & to the concomitant feeling of guilt by the hush-hush atmosphere in which this is done.

Is sex education knowing the anatomy & physiology of the human body, or about the act of sex, or about reproduction & family life, or about the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases & unwanted pregnancies? Is giving sex education equal to giving permission of engaging in sex? At present the sex education is **incomplete as it does not cover the morality** associated with sex, sexual dysfunctions & deviations & the institution of marriage.

One of the basic questions is, do children need sex education? After all, for thousands of years people have had sex without any formal education. In many traditional civilizations, sex education starts after marriage with trial & error. Some couples learn it faster than others & do it better than others, due to difference in sexual perception & the expression of one partner. Having a dozen children is not necessarily a proof of love or an understanding of sex. An appropriate & healthy sex education is crucial to the fulfilment of a happy marriage.

With regards to the questions who should impart sex education, everyone has to play a role. **The parent have to assume a more responsible role.** The father has a duty to be able to answer his son's questions

and the mother her daughter's. We can hardly influence the sex education at school or by the media which should be called "STD/AIDS/Teenage Pregnancy Education", but we can supplement that with some ethical & moral dimension & add family love & responsibility. Apart from these sources, some role can be played by teachers, the physician, the pediatrician & the religious teachers. Within a family the elder sister has a duty towards the younger one & the elder brother has for the younger one.

Teachers are told to give the technical aspects of sex education **without telling the students about moral values** or how to make the right decisions. Whatever the teacher does, just make sure the children are NOT given homework. After describing the male/female anatomy, and reproduction, the main emphasis is on the prevention of venereal diseases & teenage pregnancy. With the rise of AIDS, the focus is on "Safe Sex" which means having condoms available each time someone decides to have sex with an unmarried partner. Some public places in the country have started dispensing free condoms. There are vending machine in school hallways & "children" could get a condom each time they need to engage in illicit sex. The role of parents is minimized by sex educators & sometimes ridiculed. Why are these sex educators so obsessed with loading children with sexual information whether they want it or not – do they have a sick & immoral agenda? The secular sex education devoid of morality is in many ways unacceptable to a religious value system.

Delicate leaves should not be forced into premature blossom or blight. Remember your own experience as a school-child. We want to guard our children from hearing or seeing much that came to our ears & eyes as a school-child. It is utterly and absolutely impossible for us to keep a young child ignorant of life, or of the great fundamental principles of life. It is utterly useless to undertake to ignore the set impulse in all nature. Since God did not ignore it in constructing the universe, parents cannot afford to in educating children. The one thing to do is to teach your child early to respect & revere the subject, and to regard all things pertaining to birth as sacred, never to be lightly discussed. Wherever the eyes of an observing child turn, they see something to arouse curiosity upon this subject.

All literature (the Bible, the Quran) contains some reference to sex & birth. Unless you stuff the ears of children with cotton, they must hear expressions, suggestions, and references, which necessitate explanations of the same vital subject. From insects to man, through all the various kingdoms, **sex laws are the foundation of life.**

Most children have inquiring minds, and have a tendency to coquetry. Girls prefers boys to dolls, and boys prefer girls to video games. The things you would guard them from knowing, they are sure to learn in some undesirable and unfortunate manner, unless you prepare them for it with loving delicacy and refinement.

Take a plant, and talk to them about its growth. Tell them how it springs from a seed, and hides in the bosom of the earth, expanding until it bursts through, and becomes the baby of mother earth. Tell them, too, of the bird life in the egg, and make them realize the mother-impulse in all nature. Then say to them that they are a part of it all and that they came into life by the same divine law, and that when they are older you will explain whatever puzzles their young minds.

Tell them that they were carried under their mother's heart, as the sprout was carried in the bosom of mother earth, and that it is a very holy & beautiful thing; so holy & so beautiful that the refined & sweet people of the world do not talk freely of the subject, but keep it like a religion, for those very near to them.

Then say, you will hear other children, who have not been told this by their parents, speak rudely & even jest on this subject. They are to be pitied, for not knowing such jests are vulgar, but you must walk away from them, and refuse to listen, after telling them your parents have explained all you need to know. **Impress upon them that they are never to discuss the topic with anyone else, unless you advise them to do so.** Parents who take this method with their children, will succeed in rearing beautiful & remarkable daughters & sons. For the sons were included in the talk by one mother, and they were ideal boys & gentlemen – popular with, & respected by their schoolmates, in spite of their delicacy & reserve on subjects jested over by other boys.

Protect your children from the soil & shock you fear for them, by making them your confidante at an

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Quran: 23:5 "Blessed are the believers...who restrain their carnal desires..."

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